

# Vashon Recycling & Transfer Station



## Fact Sheet

*Exit and entrance to scalehouse*

**Overview:** Vashon Recycling & Transfer Station was constructed in 1999 on 9.4 acres of land at the north end of the closed Vashon Landfill. It is bordered on the other sides by Island Center Forest. The facility includes a scalehouse, recycling area and transfer building. The station services residents and businesses on Vashon Island.

**Location:** 18900 Westside Hwy SW, Vashon, WA 98070

### Hours of Operation

Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tues & Thurs: closed

*Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day*

**What happens to the waste?** The waste is transported in trailers by county employees from Vashon to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, 45 miles away.

**What happens to recyclable materials?** Recyclable materials are separated by type and distributed to local, national or international markets for processing into recycled content products. Reusable materials (textiles) are donated to local non-profits.

### Notable features

- Because of its remote island location, the facility accepts some special wastes for disposal that the other King County transfer stations do not accept, such as business generated sharps, and construction and demolition debris (C&D). With the exception of C&D, waste that is not generally accepted by the Public Rule must receive a Waste Clearance Decision before disposal at the Vashon Transfer Station.
- Funded by the 1% for Art Program, artist Deborah Mersky integrated artwork in two station locations: the scalehouse and "Echo Wall" in the recycling area. Both refer to the life of plants, animals, and refuse.
- Compaction of waste and of recyclable materials reduces the number truck trips off the island, lowering carbon emissions and transportation costs.



*Customers place cardboard and mixed recyclable materials in compactor*



*Artist Deborah Mersky's scale house panels, "Bird News," present fragments of ecological news culled from the local paper.*



**King County**

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
**Solid Waste Division**

## 2015 at a glance

- **Who are the customers?** 98 percent of visits were made by self-haul customers, who contributed 68 percent of the total solid waste received at the station. Commercial customers contributed 32 percent of the total solid waste with 2 percent of the visits.
- **Tons of solid waste disposed:** 7,271. This constitutes 1 percent of solid waste at all King County transfer stations.
- **Total customer visits:** 20,178
- **Recycling services**
  - Appliances\*
  - Cardboard
  - Mercury-containing light bulbs and tubes
  - Scrap metal
  - Textiles
  - The following can be combined in the large blue "Recyclable Materials" containers:
    - o Paper, including office paper, junk mail, envelopes, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, paper food boxes, cartons such as milk, juice and broth cartons, paper cups, shredded paper if securely tied in clear plastic bags, and hard and paperback books
    - o Aluminum and tin/steel cans
    - o Glass bottles and jars
    - o Plastic bottles, cups, jugs, tubs, pots, food containers, clamshells, trays
    - o Large plastic or steel/tin lids (3 inches or more)

Recyclable materials must be empty (no liquids) and clean (no food).

\*Fees apply

## Recycling Tonnage

Cardboard	Mixed Paper	TAP <sup>1</sup>	Glass	Metal	Yard Waste	Appliances	Misc.	Total*
208	540	144	310	137	102	12	3	1456

1) TAP (tin, aluminum and plastic)

\*This constitutes 8 percent of the recycling at all King County transfer stations.



Mersky's "Echo Wall" frames the portals for sorting recyclable materials with imagery from the Vashon Island environment.



Deer graze on the closed landfill

## Yard and Food Waste Pilot Program

In October 2015, in collaboration with Zero Waste Vashon, the King County Solid Waste Division implemented a pilot collection program for yard and food waste at the Vashon Recycling & Transfer Station. Businesses and residents are now able to recycle yard and food waste at the reduced rate of \$75 per ton (minimum \$12 fee). The yard and food waste, which must be separated from garbage and recyclable materials, is collected in a separate area. The collected yard and food waste will be tracked and the data will help determine the feasibility of permanent collection and processing of yard and food waste on Vashon Island.

Alternative Formats On Request

206-477-4466 • TTY Relay: 711

[your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/vashon-transfer.asp?ID=344](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/vashon-transfer.asp?ID=344)



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